

Darfur, but it looks as if he will have to be dragged kicking and screaming by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Granted, Darfur defies easy solutions. But Mr. Bush was outspoken and active this spring in another complex case, that of Terry Schiavo. If only Mr. Bush would exert himself as much to try to save the lives of the two million people driven from their homes in Darfur. So I'm going to start tracking Mr. Bush's lassitude. The last time Mr. Bush let the word Darfur slip past his lips publicly (to offer a passing compliment to U.S. aid workers, rather than to denounce the killings) was Jan. 10. So today marks Day 113 of Mr. Bush's silence about the genocide unfolding on his watch.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Breastfeeding Promotion Act with my colleagues CHRIS SHAYS of Connecticut, ROBERT WEXLER of Florida, ADAM SCHIFF, LYNN WOOLSEY and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD of California, BERNARD SANDERS of Vermont, BRAD MILLER of North Carolina, DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, JOHN CONYERS and DALE KILDEE from Michigan and MAJOR OWENS and JOSEPH CROWLEY from New York.

Mr. Speaker, statistical surveys of families show that over 50 percent of mothers with children less than one year of age are in the labor force. Whereas women with infants and toddlers are a rapidly growing segment of the labor force today, arrangements must be made to allow a mother's expressing of milk if mother and child must separate.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breastfeed exclusively for six months but continuing for at least the first year of a child's life. Research studies show that children who are not breastfed have higher rates of mortality, meningitis, some types of cancers, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections, diarrhoeal diseases, ear infections, allergies, and obesity. To encourage and promote breastfeeding we are introducing the Breastfeeding Promotion Act.

Specifically, the Breastfeeding Promotion Act includes four provisions:

Protects Breastfeeding Under Civil Rights Law: The bill clarifies the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 to protect breastfeeding under civil rights law. This will ensure that women cannot be fired or discriminated against in the workplace for expressing milk or breastfeeding during lunch or breaks.

Provides Tax Incentives for Employers: With more than half of mothers with infants (less than one year of age) in the work force, it is important to promote a mother-friendly work environment. The bill encourages employers to set up a safe, private, and sanitary environment for women to express (or pump) breast milk by providing a tax credit for employers who set up a lactation location, purchase or rent lactation-related equipment, hire a lactation consultant or otherwise promote a lactation-friendly work environment. Many companies would be able to receive a tax credit of up to fifty percent of their related expenses.

Seeks Minimum Safety Standards for Breast Pumps: The bill requires the Food and Drug Administration to develop minimum quality standards for breast pumps to ensure that products on the market are safe and effective based on efficiency, effectiveness, and sanitation factors (in addition to providing full and complete information concerning breast pump equipment).

Allows Breastfeeding Equipment to Be Tax Deductible: The bill amends the tax laws to include breastfeeding equipment and services as deductible medical care expenses.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 366) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act, which reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. For over 20 years, the programs authorized in this bill have offered students across America the opportunity to develop their academic and technical skills.

Perkins supports vocational education programs that prepare students for both postsecondary education and the careers of their choice. H.R. 366 maintains many of the aspects of the current legislation that have made these programs successful. In my home state of Rhode Island, federal funding is instrumental in the operations of nine regional centers, each offering a different mix of technical training programs. Additional career and technical programs are provided in numerous comprehensive high schools and at post-secondary institutions throughout the state. These services are an integral component of education in Rhode Island and I strongly support a continued federal role in career and technical education.

The bill we are voting on today incorporates several new "local uses of funds" that will help postsecondary programs serve their students better—particularly adults that take the initiative to return to school, enrolling in community college career and technical education programs.

I want to take this opportunity to express one reservation about the reauthorization. The merger of the Tech Prep program into the Basic State Grants will result in the loss of a separate line item for Tech Prep. Although the bill seeks to ensure continued funding for Tech Prep activities, community colleges fear that the end result will be the loss of those funds, rather than an addition to the Basic State Grants. Tech Prep programs utilize a proven, successful school-to-work transition strategy to assist students making the connection between school and employment. I hope that a dedicated funding stream for Tech Prep will be reinstated in the conference on this bill with the Senate.

With this in mind, I thank the House leadership for pursuing the reauthorization of the Perkins Act and encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 366.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BECKY ZERLENTES

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Becky Zerlentes who died, tragically, on Sunday, April 3, 2005 after a fatal blow from a boxing match the day before.

Becky was a well-loved member of the Fort Collins community; she was a geography and economics instructor at Front Range Community College. She taught swimming and had a black belt in Goshin Jitsu, and she had brown belts in other forms of martial arts.

In 2002, Becky won the Regional Golden Gloves in women's boxing. She took a short break and recently began to box again. Becky was knocked unconscious during a match, and never regained consciousness. She died the following day at the Denver Health Medical Center.

I ask my colleagues to extend their sympathies to Becky's family, including her husband, Stephan Weiler, and the Fort Collins community. Becky has touched the lives of many at Front Range and beyond.

A TRIBUTE TO PHIL FRIEDMAN AND COMPUTER GENERATE SOLUTIONS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2005 thirty years to the day after he arrived on this country's shore, Phil Friedman will once again cast his gaze on the awesome spectacle of the Statue of Liberty as so many other immigrants before and after him have done.

But this time, he will be seeing that spectacular symbol of America's promise from his new office, as the successful company that he founded two decades ago celebrates its move from Broadway to Lower Manhattan.

Phil's story is a singularly American one that would have done Horatio Alger proud. It can inspire other people who are U.S. citizens by choice, such as me and my wife, as well as anyone who understands what the American dream is about.

Phil Friedman came of age in the Soviet Union, where he was trained in electronic engineering, accounting and finance before fleeing the oppressive Soviet system. After surmounting the challenge of emigrating, he found that life in America as a new arrival was no walk in the park—in order to succeed, he needed a better facility in English, and even more professional credentials. So he went back to school while his wife, Rose, studied accounting. After earning multiple degrees from New York University, he spent eight years in various positions in the information technology industry—first as a programmer,

and then director of management information systems.

Phil then took the plunge of entrepreneurship and began his own company, which he called Computer Generated Solutions (CGS). Like its founder, CGS rose from humble beginnings. At the start there were five employees in a small office in New York. The company now employs more than 1000 professionals in offices across the country and around the globe. Since its inception, both CGS and Phil have won numerous awards and gained the respect and praise of business analysts.

As CGS has expanded its operations, Phil Friedman has been mindful of the potential effect on the U.S. workforce. He has resisted the industry trend toward outsourcing services and management positions, and has used the company's overseas facilities primarily to serve customers in those regions. Not long ago, he told a reporter that "In the rush to send so many jobs offshore," the IT industry in this country was "neglecting our moral responsibility to our employees. We said we needed these skills; now we're abandoning these people." CGS has made substantial investments in training its U.S. employees and developing their skills.

On May 5, 2005 Computer Generated Solutions will inaugurate its new headquarters at the World Financial Center in Lower Manhattan, an event significant in its own right, since it marks the continued rebirth of an area devastated by the September 11th attacks. It is a fitting conclusion to this story that when Phil Friedman moves into the new CGS office building, he won't be gazing up at the Statue of Liberty looming overhead, but gazing out at the broad panorama of the harbor, Ellis Island and a horizon as full of promise as any immigrant's aspirations for a new life in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Phil Friedman and his wife Rose have given much back to this country. They have thrown their time and energy into countless philanthropic efforts on behalf of numerous causes both here in America and in Israel, for which they have received widespread and well-deserved recognition. The Friedman's and their children, Alyx and Jeffery, are truly the personification of the American dream. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their successes, and wishing CGS the best of luck in its new home.

RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. MILITARY FAMILIES AND SPOUSES

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the families and spouses of our United States Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, the family members of America's men and women in uniform have always been one of our Nation's greatest assets, and often our unsung heroes. Perhaps now as much as ever, the support of our military families on the Homefront is crucial to maintaining the spirit of our warfighters.

I would like to pay special recognition to the work of the Kious family of Mundelein Illinois.

While Kevin Kious served as a Navy Seabee in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his son Marshall and wife Debbie organized a care package program called "Treats For Our Troops" which accepts and delivers hard to find supplies to our forces stationed overseas. Now, Mr. Kious is back home, but Treats For Our Troops—and countless other family-run efforts—still continues to send a small piece of home to our brave men and women across the globe.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions—and sacrifices—of our military spouses and families like the Kiouses who selflessly do so much for our country while their loved ones answer their nation's call to service.

CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today Mexican American communities throughout America are celebrating Cinco de Mayo, and I want to take this opportunity to join in commemorating this important day in Mexico's history. Today marks the triumphant victory of the Mexican Army over the French that led to Mexico's self-rule. It is a day that symbolizes Mexican unity and patriotism, and is a time of joy and national pride.

The United States and Mexico have a long history of friendship and economic partnership. Today, there are more than 25 million men and women of Mexican American origin who call America home. Mexican Americans have made great contributions to our nation.

They are our small business owners creating jobs for our communities, teachers and other professionals. Mexican Americans are government leaders, and today, there are eighteen Mexican American Members of Congress.

Mexican American culture has been deeply interwoven into the fabric of daily American life and is part of the American experience. Their contributions have made us a stronger and more vibrant nation. Mexican Americans have served in the Armed Forces defending our country and our freedom. In fact, today, more than 8,700 men and women born in Mexico now wear the United States military uniform.

The United States and Mexico are neighbors united by the common interests of security, prosperity and friendship. As we move forward in the 21st Century, we will continue working together with respect and commitment to our mutual goals.

So to my Mexican American constituents and colleagues, I extend my warmest tribute in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT FLOWER MOUND ELEMENTARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Flower Mound Elementary School as it

celebrates 20 years in the 26th District of Texas. Flower Mound Elementary, a Blue Ribbon School, prides itself on offering students opportunities, which allow them to go farther than an average education.

Flower Mound Elementary has been enriching the lives of students, teachers and our community for two decades now. The foundation that Flower Mound Elementary and primary schools across our country provide is essential to the development and success of our children in the long-term. Education is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and I commend Principal Gail Ownby and all the teachers and staff at Flower Mound Elementary for their continued commitment to our future, our children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Flower Mound Elementary and all those who serve the greater good by making the choice to teach in today's education system.

HONORING DR. ALICE S. PAUL

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Alice S. Paul, an exceptional citizen of my community, our country, and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Dr. Paul's life, which unfortunately ended too soon on May 3, 2005, exemplifies the impact of public education at a time when we need to speak about its power.

Dr. Alice Paul is a product of public education and leaves a legacy of its worth. As a life-time educator, she extended the power of public education far beyond her own experience. Her focus was early childhood education, and she traveled widely helping communities improve their early childhood educational systems. Her work had direct impact on the lives of young children and their families throughout the United States, from rural Alaska to urban New Jersey. After her retirement she even served as a consultant to the Taiwanese educational system.

Alice Paul accomplished many firsts. She was the first Tohono O'odham to receive a doctorate degree and the first to teach in Tucson Unified School District. She was rooted in her tribal identity, but her openness reached far beyond. Whether meeting Native or non-Native people, Americans or Chinese, Christians or Muslims, her strong and gentle wisdom left a positive mark—because of who she was.

Combining her exceptional personal qualities, life experiences, and academic expertise, Dr. Paul touched individuals, organizations, and institutions. She was a classroom teacher. She was a Field Representative of Tucson's Early Education Model and later Director of its Follow Through Program which worked with former Head Start children and their families through the third grade. She was a University of Arizona Associate Professor of Education, and she served as head of its Department of Teaching and Teacher Education. In later years, she was a member of the Arizona State Museum Board of Directors. She was Chair of the Tohono O'odham Community College Board of Trustees and realized its accreditation. The honors she received over the years would fill a page.